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NSC BRIEFING

29 NOVEMBER 1955

**BULGANIN-KHRUSHCHEV TOUR
OF SOUTH ASIA**

- I. Khrushchev--~~foremost of the Soviet leaders~~--has spared no effort in door-to-door campaign to sell Russian friendship to the Indian people.
- A. Khrushchev has told them: "You want to build power stations? If you have not sufficient experience in this matter and if you want technical aid--come to us and we will help you. Do you want to send your engineering students to study in our country? Please send them."
- B. Bulganin--Khrushchev's senior traveling-mate--has publicly offered to share with India the USSR's experience in "the construction of industrial enterprises, electric power stations, hydro projects, and the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes."
- II. Since they arrived in India on 18 Nov, B and K have clocked 3,000 miles by air, auto and elephant, visited 11 points--an intensive tour which has reduced them to near-exhaustion.
- A. They have taken advantage of every official and informal opportunity to put across these ideas:
1. USSR made tremendous and rapid strides in economic development with Western help and in the face of capitalist hostility--India can do it that way too.

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2. The colonial powers responsible for the long suppression of Asia are the same as those who now stand in the way of peace by forming military blocs and operating from a "position of strength," and therefore they are a common enemy to India and the USSR.
 3. Soviet possession of nuclear weapons is the major deterrent to aggressive action by the U.S. leading to another world war.
 4. India's and Russia's interests coincide on several specific and major points such as Communist China's "rightful" place in the world community, opposition to SEATO, opposition to such vestiges of colonialism as Goa, and support for the Nehru-Chou "five principles."
- B. Indian popular reaction to these blandishments has been mixture of:
1. Applause for Soviet offers of economic and technical assistance.
 2. Irritation over Russian discourtesy in using India as rostrum for uninhibited attacks against western powers.
- C. Indian government has apparently finally followed some elements of Indian press in reacting unfavorably to B-K use of visit for criticism of Western countries and invidious contrasts of peacefulness of USSR with warmongering of West.

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1. On 29 Nov, Nehru in public speech said guardedly that making comparisons between one country and another was not good and that, in any case, the comparison should not be made on the basis of enmity. Even in the atomic age, Nehru continued, the challenge and menace of the atom bomb cannot be met by another atom bomb.
2. On the same day, the Hindustan Times (semi-official mouthpiece of the GOI and the Congress Party) put the case more bluntly by suggesting that USSR should destroy all stocks of atomic weapons as testimony to her professed wish for peace. The Times stated "Even bomb tests are not without dire peril to the world," and continued "Official circles in Britain and American had misread the positions in suggesting that the Indians have surrendered their political thinking and that the welcome accorded to the Soviet leaders is the measure of their endorsement of Communist ideology. On the contrary, the visit of Soviet leaders to foreign countries may also have its effects on Soviet thinking, which has hitherto been conditioned by narrow isolationism."

III. B and K have brought high-level staff with them for the grand tour--qualified to discuss political, trade and cultural relations with authority.

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- A. While B and K sight-seeing in India, serious talks going on at New Delhi between Secretary General of Indian Ministry of External Affairs and senior Soviet officials of the party--First Deputy Foreign Minister Gromyko and Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Kумыkin.
 - B. B and K are scheduled to return to New Delhi after Burma visit, (starting 1 Dec), follow-up on these discussions.
- IV. Burma also will go all-out to give Khrushchev and Bulganin a lavish reception:
- A. Extensive up-country trips planned, parts of which will be undertaken overland in areas infested by both Commie and non-Commie insurgents.
 - B. Bulganin to be given title Thudhamma (Defender of the Faith), highest honor Burma can bestow.
 - C. Burmese should be receptive to sort of pitch Soviet leaders used in India.
 - 1. Already grateful to Orbit for taking large quantities surplus rice; impressed by ostensible lack of strings attached to Soviet offers of economic aid.
 - 2. Burmese likely accept any Soviet offers technical assistance, (Moscow already scheduled to send an agricultural team to program diversification Burma's agriculture).
 - D. Burmese will tend accept Soviet professions of peaceful intent at face value.

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E. In this connection, indications are that insurgent Burma Communist Party may soon emerge from underground, possibly while the Soviet leaders are in Burma.

1. Negotiations between the BCP and high government officials now in progress.
2. The BCP's emergence would remove an aberration from the current Asian Communist emphasis on "peaceful methods."
3. Communist "surrender" would be widely regarded as return of prodigal sons.

V. B and K will wind up grand tour with stop-off in Afghanistan, probably about 15 Dec, at time when Afghan receptivity to Soviet glad-hand has never been greater.

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